Join us for a special presentation with Dr. Frances Hayashida, an archaeologist and an Associate Professor of Anthropology and a faculty affiliate with the Latin American and Iberian Institute at UNM. Before coming to UNM, she held research fellowships at Dumbarton Oaks and the Technische Universität München and taught at the University of Virginia, Penn State, and the University of Missouri. Her research focuses on the political economy and political ecology of Andean states and empires, and her areas of interest include agriculture and water management, craft production, and beer brewing. She currently co-directs a project on agriculture and empire in the high-altitude Atacama Desert with colleagues from the Universidad de Chile and the Instituto de Ciencias del Patrimonio of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (Spain).

This presentation will examine how in the past as in the present, water is a valuable and contested resource in arid environments. While large irrigation systems can be built and managed from the bottom-up by farmers, they are vulnerable to takeover by politically powerful entities. These dynamics are explored in two regions of the Andes, the Peruvian north coast and the high-altitude Atacama Desert in Chile. In both areas, local societies devised extensive and ingenious networks of canals and fields to create productive farmlands during late prehispanic times. In both areas, imperial conquest transformed water management, agriculture, and communities. Archaeology can provide a long-term historical and comparative perspective on what happens to local landscapes and livelihoods with incorporation into larger political economies.

This event is sponsored by the LAII. It is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact the LAII at (505) 277-2961 or visit us online at http://laii.unm.edu/events.